THE EXAMINER.

No. 228 SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1812.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 222.

THE MANUFACTURERS.

The lovers of war in this country have always been anxious to make us believe, that it has not tended to diminish our general comfort or internal prosperity. The abhorrence of war, in the abstract, they have ridiculed as a childish folly, or at best agreed with it in a tone of indifference and then begun talking of necessity and natural enemies; but when you come to particulars, and doubted whether the continuance of so long and so losing a struggle would not materially affect our domestic interests, they fairly laughed in your face. What! said they:—have we not the commerce of the world in our hands, and can our manufactures ever want a market?—By degrees, this exclamation began to fail them, as port after port was shut against us; and then came the doctrine of patriotic privations,—a very good one certainly, under proper circumstances, but far from being gracious or seductive when inculcated by six-bottle Ministers and plenitudinous Aldermen. In a short time, however, not a port was left us, and then we were requested to look at our own harbours, and see the shipping we possessed:—if you stated the number of families that were reduced, and the quantity of dependents thrown upon government influence, you were desired to notice the growth of the metropolis;, and if you objected to the enormous increase of Bankrupts and to the multitude of persons getting into jail, you were begged, with a smile of pity, to look at the fine roads they had to walk in. At last, as the evils thicken upon us in proportion to the growth and continuance of their causes, comes positive want itself; and notwithstanding our wide-spreading metropolis, notwithstanding our fine roads, our canals, and our granaries, notwithstanding even the profusion of government contracts, and the sleek, persuasive condition in which the maintainers, brothers, and creatures of Ministers are delighted to find themselves, an important class of our countrymen are crying out for bread and employment, and an agonized insurrection is in the heart of our cities.

The House of Commons is now making some inquiry into the necessities of these unfortunate people; and it is agreed on every side, that till something be resolved for their relief, it is at least incumbent upon all to shew a serious interest in their welfare, and not to say or do any thing that shall excite them to proceed to extremities. In pursuance therefore of our duty, as advocates of the same cause and same feelings in general with Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, we cannot but deprecate and lament the very unwarrantable, useless, and pernicious violence with which he has spoken of the soldiers that have been called out on this melancholy occasion. We agree with Sir FRANCIS, that weak and guilty rulers, who have reason to dread the bursts of popular feeling, are much too apt to make use of the mititary and to affect an anti-revolutionary parade with their cannon and drawn swords; we agree with him also, that the law has in general set it's face against such appearances in a free state; and that whenever they do appear, they are much greater proofs of a bad government than of any thing else;—but there are times and occasions, in which, whatever may be the *first* cause of the misfortune, and however unattributable to the people, a recourse to military interference is absolutely and indispensibly necessary for the commonest security of property and life; and the present occasion is one of them. There is no alternative:—either force must be threatened by force, or insurrection must do as it pleases; either a small and disciplined multitude must overawe a larger, or the latter must be left to all the caprices of an *unreasoning* resentment, and terrify, plunder, and destroy to no purpose but to make the case worse. The class, whose sufferings drive them to such extremities, are undoubtedly much to be pitied and much to be forgiven,—just as much as the prime authors of their afflictions ought to be execrated and called to account; but if it can once be proved, as it certainly is in this instance, that their violent proceedings are really as injurious to their own necessities as to the peace of their neighbours, it is but humanity to repress them by violence. Let us continue to speak then, as Englishmen ought, of servile Ministers and profligate Princes, since the spirit of resisting servility and vice is absolutely necessary to our existence as a nation, and these are matters at issue between the Court and the country at large, which must be canvassed for the general good in spite of small inconveniences;—but let us not go upon unwarrantable grounds and inflame an unreasoning resentment against measures of absolute necessity. We are very far from thinking, with some people, that Sir FRANCIS BURDETT is indebted to Mr. HORNE TOOKE for all that he has to think and to say;—he speaks, in general, too well and too readily for any such idle suspicion;—but certainly his late ebullition was no favourable specimen of his powers unadvised; and we cannot help suspecting that it would not have taken place, had he still been possessed of the society and experience of that older head.

There is another, however, and still more important view of this subject, which the objectors to Sir FRANCIS's speech, in their anxiety to turn reproach off their own grounds, seem to have entirely overlooked;—and this is, the much greater perniciousnes of *wrong doings* compared with *wrong words*. It was very well and profitable for the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER to get up, and exclaim

against the Baronet with horror in his hands and eyeballs, and very allowable in the persons about him to fall into an extatic outcry at finding so much danger to shudder at in a Reformist; but to say the least of it, it was very weak in Mr. Bargam and others to make the wrong speeches of Sir Francis Burdett an excuse for going over to the wrong measures of Mr. Perceval; and what is more, it is very impudent in the Corruptionists to lay claim to the feelings of better men and make such an uproar about what was *said* by another, at the very moment when they are *doing* all they can to waste the resources of the State, and to insult the wretchedness of their indigent countrymen by refusing to retrench the grossest expenditures.—Amidst all the nonsense which these creatures utter about dissaffection and misrepresentations, none of them will be ridiculous enough to assert that the pressure of the times, the absolute want of employment and bread,—can be owing to speeches:—no; it originates with the authors and maintainers of a luckless, an obstinate, and a deadening war; and therefore if any one set of persons, more than another, ought to feel for the present distresses, and abstain in action as well as word from adding bitterness to the popular feeling, those persons are the disciples of Mr. Pitt, the aiders and abettors of his unfortunate coalitions, the continuers and even depravers of his system, the wasters of public credit and confidence, the destroyers of commerce. Yet the Minister, who gets up to be horrified at inflammatory speeches, the very Minister, so careful of the public feeling,—this man, so disdainful of wrong excitements, so moved in the very nobleness of his nature against all that even sounds like a want of lofty propriety, bestows an idle place on his brother of 30,000*l.* a year, is a placeman himself thrice over, is notoriously the greatest reversionist in the kingdom, and defends sinecures and reversions,—the most provoking perhaps of all corruptions,—with all his might,—whenever there is an attempt to abolish them! What say the abhorrors to this? Will they venture to tell us that the words of an individual have more effect than the actions of a government? Not they, unless indeed, as they are used to barefaced contradictions, they mean to tell us at the same time, that the revolutions and falls of governments have been owing to idle speeches instead of bad measures and long misbehaviour. But if they will still talk of words above things, let them look to their own side of the question, and hear what George Rose has to say about people drowning in buckets. We have no wish to repeat the words in their gravity any more than those of Sir Francis, for we really do consider them as extremely irritating to the public mind, and uselessly so; but the reader recollects them, no doubt;—the Birmingham Deputies were expressing themselves forcibly as to the hardships incurrable from a dispute between this country and America, and the sung old soul, wishing to make them as resigned as himself to the perplexities of the nation, but at the same time having really nothing to say, worked himself up into a figure of speech, and began talking incontinently about a sinking match on the water.

> Our friend old George told, you know,
> A tale extremely apropos.
> Name the two states,—and like the c'rowners,
> He had a story of two drowners.

Really, as my Lord Ellenborough said the other day of an unfortunate witness, to the great amusement of the barristers, and indeed almost the convulsion of some of them,—"Such a man as this should not venture upon metaphor."—Oh! cries Mr. Perceval,—what my *Right Honourable Friend* says is quite another matter; I was present at that conversation and do not recollect his having used any such words; but "*even if they had been used*, I am certain they proceeded from no feelings of insensibility, *though it is easy for persons to avail themselves of them so as to make a mischievous impression.*"—Such is the candour, consistency, disinterestedness, and Heaven knows what else, of this transparent-souled Premier! And the reader, we think, will want no more said on the subject.—For our parts, we give up the speeches of Mr. Rose and Sir Francis together; and as we do not care an atom what the former has to say in future, convinced as we are that he would rather have the Treasury padlock on his lips than utter any thing more of the kind,—so we earnestly hope that the latter will never again let his resentments get the better of his reason, but always act like a conscientious as well as intrepid Reformist,—be bold at the proper times, and discriminating at all times.

☞

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—Whatever effe t the pending parliamentary examination of the manufacturers may have on the darling policy which has directly produced it, an attentive perusal of the evidence will do more to exhibit the real nature of the contest in which we are engaged, than thousands of letters from *I. S.* and *Vetus*;* however demonstrative that peace would be destruction, and that a hundred warlike millions may be annually spent by our Percevals and Castlereaghs for ever. Birmingham and its vicinity, by Mr. Attwood, may be termed a correct picture, in a sombre stile, a thorough study of which would be highly serviceable to our numerous glowing colourists, the glare of whose manner might be softened by a slight portion of the melancholy moderation of truth. The way in which these sanguine gentry dispose of the sufferings, misery, and starvation of some hundreds of thousands of their countrymen is so truly brief and conclusive, it might lead one to suppose that hunger was deemed by them to be one of those minor inconveniencies to which a vulgar eating community might quickly reconcile itself. That such a trifle as the want of food should stimulate a hardy and would-be industrious population to riot and discontent, excites in these admirers of patriotic inanition the most incontrolable anger. In doors (as the phrase is) the panacea for all manner of evil, except right honorable defalcation, is hanging. The belligerent journalists, on the other hand, are unanimously for the military. Prompt and extreme severity is *their* cry; and so eager are they for prevention,

* Bladders of wind, with these signatures appended, occasionally let off in the *Times* newspaper.

they appear even incensed at the procrastinated existence afforded by the benefit club.† The legitimate inference from this humane reasoning in course is, that the discharge from a manufactory is an overt act, for which, to prevent future mischief, the party so turned loose should be immediately shot.

Now if all this precaution and decision on the part of our rulers and writers was accompanied by any kind of proposition for national enquiry and relief, the most speedy repression and suppression of discontent even by the musquet or the halter, could only be lamented as a cruel necessity—but truly to hang some, shoot others, and leave the rest to starve on, may be deemed nearly as distant from paternity and good government as from humanity and justice.

There is a part of Mr. Attwood's evidence which, as it asserts the existence of honourable pride and lofty feelings under circumstances the most abject and distressing, is exceedingly affecting. In reply to a question as to the number requiring parochial aid in Birmingham, he states his positive knowledge, that many suffering individuals exist in that town who would rather die than apply to the parish. The simple pathos of this fact goes to the soul, and may be finely contrasted by the opposing one of an amply portioned individual running to a heavy burthened and highly taxed community for the wages of an additional upper servant.

When we regard the pertinacity and courage with which the parties who do us the honour to govern us adhere to certain measures in the face of suffering myriads‡, and observe their exceeding timidity on other occasions, it is impossible not to admit that Ministers are equally singular both as to what they fear and what they do not fear. The maintenance of a scheme which at best adds thousands to a large starving population, appears to excite in them no very sensible alarm; but talk of retrenching a sinecure, and they immediately see the Constitution about their ears. The influence of the Crown too—(Yes, gentle Reader, of that Crown which possesses the legitimate expenditure of ninety millions annually,) without sinecures would not be sufficiently extensive, it being perfectly clear that but for a number of *salaries*, denominated *places*, all equipoise would be lost§. Nay, riots on the other side of the question might be produced, Mr. William Dundas assuring us that by the articles of the Union, certain Scotch sinecures form a part of the *privileges* of that Kingdom, and that singular dissatisfaction would ensue among the population North of Tweed if deprived of the *right* of providing for them as usual. Mr. W. Dundas has, by some people, been called a dull man; how unjustly!—He is a fellow of "*infinite jest.*"

To revert to the suffering manufacturers:—Alarming as popular commotion indubitably is, however excited, in the existing instances there fortunately appears no latent operation. It is the more necessary to impress this fact, because both in Parliament and out, the vast utility of indefinite apprehension is well known, and many would be happy to exhibit these hungry people in the light of political enthusiasts. The whole proceedings of this unfortunate class very clearly evince the simplicity of their immediate motives. Frames, in the first instance, indisputably lessen the number of workmen; what therefore is more natural than for the hungry mechanic to be enraged at their use, and stimulated to pour out his misguided vengeance on the introducers. We know very well how wrong all this is, but when we see, in very superior circumstances, how often a combination of malignant and injurious interests will pertinaciously and successfully oppose the most obvious and salutary improvement, we may abate a little of our indignation at the ignorant artisan. In every case, at least as far as the public are at present informed, frame-breaking, and resentment against those who employ them, appear alone to excite them. The oath produced by Mr. Ryder is merely one of secresy, and as necessary to the fulfilment of a scheme for destroying manufactories as for more political purposes. In fact, there is a *vis inertiæ* among the great mass of mankind, directly opposed to this presumed revolutionary tendency, and without some direct and proximate excitation, nothing is more difficult than to rouse them into action. The exasperation of real suffering may indeed eventually extend the views of the dissatisfied, but the only means of dissipating this danger is by *national* assistance and sympathy. When it has been part of the commercial scheme of a Government to bring up millions of manufacturers, it should exhibit some compassion for misery of it's own creation. Revolutions indeed have happened, and may happen again; but in almost every instance, the excesses of the low vulgar, on the one hand, are produced by the apathy, profligacy, venality, and want of capacity and feeling of the high vulgar on the other.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

May 9, 1812. AMICUS.

† This is the reasoning of the Editor of the *Times*. The benefit club, to be sure, forms something of a provision against adversity, but then it also brings men together, and they find out, what no men could find out otherwise—that the state of things which leads to their starvation is not the best possible.

‡ Now, without pretending to argue the whole question of the Orders in Council, that they have thrown thousands out of employ is self-evident; and the aim of some of the questions to extort a contrary conclusion from the Birmingham Evidence, can be compared to nothing so happily as the endeavour of Swift's Projector to extract sun-beams from cumcumbers.—To support a particular measure, many of these unblushing successors of Mr. Pitt have no objection to let it appear that the regular sources of national prosperity are gradually declining.—Be not abashed, George Rose—your bucket comparison is a very sensible figure.

§ It is some consolation to a People under the government of a Ruler who derives no weight from his personal character, that his sinister influence fails in exact proportion to his deficiency in respectable qualities. Thus, the quiet church-going endowments of a Theodosius the younger, can be understood by all, and will hardly be disapproved by any. The injurious tendencies of such an individual being generally of the head only, and arising from mere mediocrity of intellect, are imperceptible to the great mass of his subjects, whose minds are of the same order. The swinish vices and the gross dereliction of an Heliogabalus, on the contrary, bespeak a watchfulness of, and a prejudice against, his general views, which materially check his ability to effect any thing signal either good or evil. There may be as little of sound mind, or philosophic expansion, in the hurry, the snuff-taking and talk-about-nothing progression of the one Court, as in the sensual abandonment of the other. But the fact is, that while few can be judges of the loftier emanations of wisdom and virtue, all can appreciate the *decencies of private life*, and guess the moral and political temperature of that *Sanctum Sanctorum*, the necessary passport to which appears a total contempt for them—where the reigning principle seems the negation of all principle, and the predominant taste and manners a compound in tolerably equal proportions *from Hockley in the Hole and the Rue de la Friponerie.*

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

GERMANY.

VIENNA, APRIL 19.—To establish magazines for the subsistence of the troops, which from all parts of the Austrian Empire have been concentrated at one point, is now the principal occupation of Government.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Sunday last, Mr. Oldknow, a man very much respected in the town of Nottingham, during the absence of his wife from home at church, destroyed two of his children, one aged five years, the other only nine months, by cutting their throats, after which he put a period to his own existence with a pistol.—*The cause of this act is attributed to the extreme pressure of the times!*

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR APRIL.

The seed process has gone on heavily upon strong and rough land, from their parched and clodded surface, the consequence of some weeks drought: there is yet much to do, nor will it be performed in that style of husbandry for which a more genial season is required; the present, in course, will be late.—All the spring corn and pulse above ground in a very backward state, parched by cold, dry, northerly and easterly winds, and much in want of showers. Nothing done yet upon the fallows. The crops of wheat which originally planted well are universally in a flourishing state, that crop being seldom injured by dry weather in the spring; but those upon poor, ill-cultivated, and undrained soils, the early appearance of which was unthrifty, show at present very thin, and of a yellow unhealthy colour.—Reports of the fertility of the newly inclosed lands in general, and the mode of breaking them up in all improved districts, that of paring and burning, all the old objections to which are proved futile and groundless, where subsequent good culture is persevered in; namely, working the eradication of weeds, and a fair portion of manure.—Both fat and lean cattle cheaper, from the scarcity and enhanced price of food.—Pigs somewhat dearer.—Nothing new respecting sheep and lambs.—A fair stock of hay upon hand; straw proportionably deficient.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, May 5.

It was agreed that the House should go into a Committee on the Orders in Council, and hear evidence on the subject.

CHARGE MADE BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

Lord HOLLAND conceived it was indispensably necessary that the Government of this Country should be vindicated from what he trusted was an unfounded charge made against it. It was in fact no less than while two friendly Powers were engaged in negociation upon certain points of national importance, a Member of the British Government had employed a secret agent, Capt. Henry, in the territories of the United States, not for the purpose of procuring intelligence, for that he granted was a legitimate object, *but for the purpose of procuring some of the Provinces of the Union to throw off their allegiance to their legal Government, and to separate themselves from the rest.* It was worthy of consideration that this charge originally came from an individual who avowedly betrayed the secrets of his employers. The Noble Lord referred to certain points of the Papers which had been communicated by the American Executive to its Legislature, and pointedly referred to that part of the *Instructions* to Captain Henry, which speaks of the probability of the Federalists no longer submitting to the distressful situation in which the conduct of their Government had placed them, respecting their eventually looking up to the British Government, this implied an endeavour to induce a friendly power to do that which was against the laws of their country. If this Paper be authentic, it implied that Capt. Henry was employed in a way that it would require greater ingenuity to explain satisfactorily, than he conceived possible, and it was incumbent on the Government of this country to vindicate its honour from so pointed an attack. It was known two great opposing parties existed in America. What would be the feelings of the country or the conduct of our Government, if, while Andreossy was here, a secret agent of the French was endeavouring to detach Ireland from the Union? Anti-unionist as he was, and friend as he was to the peace of Amiens, he would not hesitate to advise war, if proper explanation was not offered, were it only through resentment against those who had insulted the honour and practised against the peace of the country. On these grounds, therefore, he thought he could look for concurrence in his proposition. He was of opinion that Sir James Craig would never have acted in this manner without the orders of his Government.—Lord Holland concluded by moving an Address to the Prince Regent, for the production of Copies of all the Communications made by Sir J. Craig to his Majesty's Secretary of State, relative to the employment of Captain Henry in a secret mission to the United States of America; also, of the Correspondence that took place between his Majesty's Secretary of State and Sir G. Prevost on the subject of compensations claimed by Captain Henry for his services; and also Copies of all Instructions sent to Sir James Craig from his Majesty's Secretary of State, relative to the employment of Captain Henry in the United States of America.

The Earl of LIVERPOOL stated, that the Agent alluded to, though employed by the late Governor of Canada, was not so employed under the authority of the British Ministry. He said, it should be recollected that at the time spoken of the United States had assumed a very warlike attitude, and that Canada was threatened with invasion. A force of 10,000 men was even ordered to be in readiness to march, and some British boats were seized upon the lakes. Under such circumstances, it became necessary that Sir James Craig, then Governor of Canada, should know the sentiments of the different States; and an opinion generally prevailed, that, in the event of a war, some degree of separation would take place. No man could say, that the conduct of Gen. Craig was improper. As a proof that the Instructions given to Mr. Henry were only given in contemplation of a war, when the points in discussion between the two Governments were adjusted, orders were sent off to Mr. Henry to withdraw from the United States.—*(Hear, hear!)*—He did not think the course pursued by the Noble Baron most proper to be taken; it should rather be left to our Government to take such measures as they deemed proper, to explain and set forth the subject in its proper light. Neither did he approve of the course adopted by the American Executive; they should have demanded an explanation in the first instance of the British Government.—*(Hear, hear!)*—He trusted these were principles and convictions on this *delicate question*, which their Lordships would feel and entertain; and if they saw no blame could fairly attach to his Majesty's Government, they would do them the justice to believe they would not be wanting to themselves, or neglect their duty on the occasion; a part of which he (the Noble Earl) felt it to be to resist the motion.

Earl GREY conceived the question to be of great importance; and was not surprised to find, that it was impossible for the Noble Lord to defend the transaction. If Ministers were to suppose the case their own, and that during a negociation with America, they should catch an American agent in Ireland, sent out with credentials to the Catholics, or any other great body of people that might be in a state of discontent—if they were to find him not only getting information, but find out their disposition for *separation* from this country, and encouraging them with the hopes of assistance from America, what would be thought of such conduct? Would it not be considered as a violation of the law of nations, and a cause of war? If Sir J. Craig had pursued a similar conduct in America, it called for a distinct disavowal on the part of Ministers, and a marked reprobation on the part of the House.

Lord SIDMOUTH never recollected any case since he had been in Parliament, which had been made the subject of so much

exaggeration. He thought that there was no ground for throwing any imputation upon Government, even although Sir James Craig, in his zeal for the defence of the colony entrusted to him, *might have a little exceeded those bounds which were to be strictly justified by the law of nations.* As Government knew nothing of those measures at the time, no blame attached to them.

After some further debate, Lord HOLLAND replied, remarking that he should not have left that House with satisfaction unless he had expressed his grief at the humiliating scene which he had witnessed; and particularly at the sort of side-wind defence which some of his Majesty's Ministers had set up of *a perfidy which could not be sufficiently reprobated.*—They had disclaimed the justification of the ostensible object of Henry's mission, and they at the same time threw the blame on the memory of Sir J. Craig. While they affected to panegyrise that officer, they had done every thing to degrade him. Such was the nature of their friendship, and such the effect of their eulogiums! They took special care to shift the burthen from their own shoulders, upon a man who could not answer for himself. The Noble Lords had in effect avowed the grossest principles of jacobinism; and the Noble Viscount who had lately come into office—*et tu Brute*,—who had talked so loudly against the Copenhagen Expedition, and who had laid so much stress on the mission of Frenchmen to Ireland in time of peace; even he had told us, that he never heard so much exaggeration! Why, according to him, make such a fuss about exciting a people against their Government? Had the Noble Viscount never heard of the strenuous attack which had made on the French Government, for having sent Commissaries in time of peace to take soundings of the coast at Dublin? Had he forgot the appeals which were then made to the Law of Nations, or the execrations which were poured on the French Government on account of Sebastiani's conduct in Egypt? The charges now brought against the British Government were nothing compared with these; and all that this Henry was employed about, was merely to obtain *information!* For the honour of the British name, he would trust that it was so: but at the same time presumptions were strongly the other way; and all he wanted was a clear official declaration from the Throne, such as would repel the charge to the satisfaction not only of this country, but of other nations.

On a division, however, the Ministers triumphed, and the Papers (which would have proved their guilt or innocence) were refused by a majority of 46—there being 27 for the motion, and 73 against it!—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, May 4.

Mr. BROUGHAM brought up a Petition from the Weavers at Chorley, in Lancaster, and its vicinity. It complained of the number of Sinecures, enumerating those of Mr. Rose, Lords Arden, Camden, &c. and also of the number of Foreigners supported in England.—The House then went into a Committee on the Orders in Council, and several witnesses from Birmingham were examined.—About nine o'clock the examination ended.

SINECURES.

Mr. BANKES moved that the Report of the Sinecure Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. W. DUNDAS argued against the principle of the Bill. His chief ground was, however, that it violated the articles of Union with Scotland. The Bill pretended only to regulate Sinecure Offices, but he contended, that as far as Scotland was concerned, it went altogether to abolition. The *People* of Scotland had stipulated at the Union, that their Chief Offices of State should be preserved. This was to them a sort of remuneration, and not merely an act of grace or favour; and he should like to know on what ground it was, that the very first Offices in Scotland were, in defiance of solemn treaty and plighted national faith, to be now abolished? Was this preserving that honourable feeling in the contemplation of which the Union with Scotland was formed; or was it not rather, for a paltry consideration, a dereliction of that honourable feeling? When Mr. Burke made his attempt at the Reformation of Offices, did such a departure from good faith ever enter into his head? Did he not in fact know human nature too well ever to have ventured on a breach of faith with a People who were too much alive to feelings of that description to have suffered such an *insult* and such an *injury* with tame insensibility?

The LORD ADVOCATE of SCOTLAND followed on the same side.

Mr. LYTTLETON said, that if he could believe the calumny universally thrown out against the Scottish nation, that the people of that country were more exquisitely sensible to the acquisition of the things of this world than those who had the misfortune to be born more south, nothing but the speech of the Hon. Member could induce him to believe it. Junius and Wilkes seemed to be malevolently bent on attributing to the Scotch a violent love for Sinecures, &c. but that opinion had been exploded until the Hon. Gentleman thought proper to put people in mind of it again. In fact, he could not well conceive whether the Hon. Gentleman was serious or not; and, indeed, he should rather suppose that his speech was an insidious defence of the Bill, and that his attempt to depreciate the cause of economy was by no means sincere. He had been himself in Scotland, and he certainly could not perceive that the Scotch were particularly impressed with the dignity of idleness; and he did not, therefore, know why the feelings of that people were to be roused in defence of Sinecure Offices. It was argued that the Monarchy would suffer from the operation of this Bill: now he was of opinion, that the aristocracy of the country was debased by the retention of these offices, more than by any other cause which popular prejudice attributed to it. It was notorious, the Hon. Gentleman said, that this was an unfortunate era of favoritism: THE REGENT WAS SURROUNDED BY FAVOURTES AND MINIONS, but there were no persons of high character about him. As to Colonel M'Mahon, of whom so much had been lately said, it was not his intention to say any thing personally slighting or disrespectful, but it was certain the public knew nothing of his services; and for his own part, he would sooner give his vote for bestowing hundreds of thousands on a Nelson, or a Wellington, than give any thing to a Gaveston, or a Spencer.

Mr. COURTENAY spoke against the Bill, which, he said, ought to have been divided into six classes, on every of one which the opinion of the House should have been taken.

Lord A. HAMILTON begged the House would recollect, that they had at different times appointed various Committees for the purpose of enquiring into existing abuses,—such as the Committee of Military Enquiry, &c. and into the general expenditure of the public money. If the House should now throw out this Bill, it would shew they paid no attention to the recommendation of those several Committees, and the Reports respectively made by them on the various subjects they had been specially appointed to investigate,—they would render those Reports, which had been made after so much trouble and loss of time, nugatory and of no avail; and would saddle the country with an enormous expence for nothing at all, which would not be doing justice either to the House or to the Country.

Colonel BASTARD said, the House had long been told by Ministers, that no office in reversion should be granted till the opinion of the House was known; and now, when, on the recommendation of so many Committees, a Bill has been brought in, and the expectations of the people raised to the highest pitch, they were told the Bill was not proper by those very men who, instead of rejecting, ought to do every thing in their power to amend it. An Hon. Gentleman had said the House must not look at things as they are, but as they were. Good God! could they shut their eyes to what was passing at the present moment? Could they be blind to the starving situation of the people, and say it was possible those unfortunate wretches could bear to see the loaf torn from the famished lips of their wives and children, to pamper in luxury a set of men who are wallowing in wealth produced by places and pensions wrung from their hard and incessant labour?—(*Hear, hear!*)—He wished this measure had been differently conducted, and that a

separate vote had been taken on every place that was recommended to be abolished. The thing would then have appeared more in its true light. Many of those places, it was well known, were given as temptations to take office, and not as a reward for offices that had been well and faithfully filled. He conjured the House to reflect on what they were about to do. He was afraid the public did not now entertain so respectful an opinion of the House as might be wished; and if they did not do all in their power to shew that they looked to the interest of the people more than to their own, sure he was that respect would still be diminished.

Mr. PERCEVAL objected so much to the bill in its general principal, and in it sweeping operation, that he did not conceive it necessary for him to abstain any longer from delivering his opinion. The Bill proposed a most inconvenient union of different offices which should rather check each other, as the Keeper of the Great Seal in Scotland, and the Office of Chief-Justice General. He conceived that the idea of retaining many offices, and abolishing their salaries, was rather an extraordinary idea. As to the Law Offices now in the disposal of the Chief Justices, he conceived that with the present Chief Justices these were vested interests which could not be taken away from them; and that the labours of the office, particularly that of Chief Justice of the King's Bench, were extremely ill paid, if it were not that the disposal of those offices, in addition to their other emoluments, made something of a reasonable compensation to them. If the disposal of those offices were taken away from the Chief Judges, a very considerable addition to their salaries ought to be made. As to the principle of the Bill, his opinion was still that it was perfectly wrong and mistaken. It went to say, that the Crown should not have the power of securing for its service men whom it might judge to be the most capable, if those men happened not to be in a situation to resign all professions or pursuits in order to enter into the public service. He knew that there were some who conceived the influence of the Crown exorbitant.—(*Hear, hear!*)—He supposed that those who cheered the expression so clamorously, were of that opinion; but he should appeal to the opinion of the House in general, whether this influence was too great. He conceived that the progress of information, and the accumulation of wealth, had added, of late years, much more influence to the aristocratic and democratic part of our Constitution—much more weight and influence, than all the existing offices, together with the increased patronage of the army, and the collection of the revenue, gave to the Crown. Even the late debates and divisions which had taken place in that House upon Colonel M'Mahon's appointment, shewed pretty clearly that there was no such preponderating influence as the Crown was supposed to have over Parliament. There was no man who could say that the proposed measure would be a matter of indifference, as respecting the Crown. It would certainly be a considerable diminution of the influence of the Crown; and it was for the wisdom of Parliament to say, whether it would not be a dangerous diminution of an influence which was by no means too great. It would be hazarding a great blow to the monarchy, to deprive the Crown of the means of calling any man to its service who was not completely independant in his fortune. A pension, after a certain number of years' service, would be by no means such an inducement, as every man of honour and proper feeling would prefer the means of providing for his family, to any provision which was to be made merely for his own life. No man who could secure a provision for his family by his exertions in private life, would consent to accept of office, unless he had also a prospect held out to him of securing a provision for his family, which one of those sinecure offices might give him.

Mr. BANKES conceived, that as the House had formerly agreed to certain resolutions, which laid down the principles that certain sinecure offices should be either abolished or regulated, they were bound to support the present Bill, which was in fact formed upon those resolutions. His Right Hon. Friend had intimated an opinion that the power of the Crown had not increased of late years: but was it possible to look at the immense expenditure of the country,—at our great military and naval establishments,—at the vast patronage thus placed in the hands of the Crown—at the increase of our revenue, and of the number of people employed in its collection;—was it possible, he would ask, to look at all these things, without being convinced, that dependence on the Crown was extended to all parts of the country, in a degree quite unexampled in former times? —(*Hear!*)—With regard to its immediate influence in that House, there had been times when such influence had been more openly exerted; but could there be a doubt that much of it remained, and continued to be an object of just suspicion to the people? The present measure, if passed, would have the beneficial effect of purifying the future Parliaments of the country. He was really surprised to hear the Offices which this Bill proposed to abolish represented as in some measure the outworks and safeguards which were necessary to the protection of the Crown. On the contrary, he rather regarded them as a mill-stone appended to the Monarchy, in danger of weighing it to the ground; because these sinecures were become low, degraded, and odious in the estimation of the people.—(*Hear, hear!*)

Mr. CANNING contended that the public opinion was hostile to sinecures; they were become odious to the people, and this bill provided that pensions should be openly given and received as the reward of past services. Though there were some provisions in the Bill from which he dissented, yet he should support it because he approved of the principle.

Lord CASTLEREAGH opposed the measure as an innovation on the powers and prerogatives of the Crown, the consequences of which he could not foresee.

The House then divided on the question for bringing up the Report,—Ayes, 134—Noes, 123—Majority for the Report 11.

The Gallery remained closed for a considerable time. When it was re-opened the Bill was re-committed, and after a variety of conversation, the Bill was ordered to be read a third time on Monday.

Mr. PERCEVAL brought in a Bill to prevent the issue and circulation of dollars and tokens, other than those of the Banks of England and Ireland.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, May 5.

The Parish Register Bill was re-committed;—when Mr. ROSE stated that the Bill had met with the approbation of the Bishops, and had only been objected to by some Clergymen who met at a public house at Epsom.

UNLAWFUL OATHS.

Mr. Secretary RYDER rose for the purpose of moving for leave to bring in a Bill to render more effectual the 37th of his present Majesty, for preventing the administering and taking of unlawful oaths. The Right Hon. Gentleman observed, that notwithstanding all the provisions of the Legislature, unlawful oaths had recently been administered to a great and alarming extent. In a late attack upon a factory belonging to a Mr. Burton, several individuals had been killed: in the pocket of one of whom was found a written oath, to the following effect: —["I, A. B. of my own voluntary will, declare and swear never to disclose the name of the persons who compose the Secret Committee, or by describing either by word or sign their persons, features, clothes, connections, &c. or cause them to be discovered, under the penalty of being put out of the world by the first person who may meet me, and of having my name and character ever held in abhorrence. I swear also to punish with death any traitors to this compact, and to pursue them for that purpose, although they should fly to the verge of the nation."]—Such was the oath that had been taken to a great extent in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire. It was with regret that he felt himself compelled to state, that since the practice of administering those oaths, attempts at murder had been made in these districts, to which they had, until that period, been strangers. The object of the Bill which he proposed, was, that the administration or taking of oaths, which bound the parties who took them to the commission or encouragement of acts, which were already capital felonies by law, should itself be a capital felony. He intended also to introduce a provision, giving to such parties who had taken the oath in question, if they made a confession of that fact before a Magistrate, and

afterwards took the oath of allegiance, exemption from the penalties of the Bill. The Right Hon. Gentleman concluded by moving for leave to bring in a Bill, &c.

Mr. C. WYNNE did not rise to oppose the motion, but to observe that the proposition of the Right Hon. Gentleman contained a new principle of Legislature, which the House ought to consider well before they adopted it. Hitherto it had been the practice in the English penal law always to distinguish the intention to commit an act from the commission of the act itself. It appeared to him that the incitors of the existing disturbances, grounding themselves upon the proposed bill, would say to those whom they influenced, as soon as they had taken the oath, "You may as well go on, for they can hang you for what you have done already." He never had thought political oaths worth attending to, and he quoted the opinion of Sir. R. Walpole with respect to their impotence and inefficacy.

A conversation ensued,—and leave was given to bring in the Bill.—The House afterwards went into a Committee on the Orders in Council, and several witnesses were examined as to their effects on the commerce of the country.

EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Mr. PERCEVAL intimated that in consequence of the advanced state of the Session, and various other important considerations, it was not his intention to submit any measure relative to the renewal of the East India Company's Charter during the present Session.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, May 6.

Aldermen Curtis, Combe, and Shaw, and Messrs. Mellish and Byng, severally presented Petitions from the Merchants, Manufacturers, and other Persons interested in the Export Trade to the East Indies, praying, that in the event of a free Commerce to that part of the World, the Exportation of British Goods and Produce should be restricted to the port of London.

ROMAN CATHOLICS.

Mr. CANNING rose to give notice that it was his intention before the Conclusion of the Session, to submit a Motion to the House upon a subject which they had already decided they would not take into their consideration, but which decision had been of such a complexion, as to persuade him that it might not be impossible to induce them to recommend the question to the Executive Government during the recess of Parliament. He proposed to move that an humble Address be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, praying that he would be graciously pleased to take into his Royal consideration those provisions of the Penal Law, which affect his Catholic Subjects, for the purpose of ascertaining what securities or arrangements may be deemed advisable, previous to the removal of those disabilities, under which that portion of the Community at present labour. As a Call of the House was fixed for the 27th instant, he would bring forward his Motion on the following day.

PROPERTY TAX.

Sir THOMAS TURTON rose to submit a resolution to the House respecting the manner in which the Property Tax was collected, and its unequal pressure. The Hon. Baronet examined several of the clauses of the Act, in order to shew their inexpediency and injustice. He dwelt particularly on the hardship of subjecting those who had nothing but a life interest in an annuity, to the same rate of tax as those who had freehold property to an equal amount; the stake of the one and the other in the country being so different. In adverting to the unequal pressure of this tax upon the community, he instanced the case of a person having only 150*l.* per annum, and another having 1500*l.*; the one, he contended, in paying his 15*l.* contributed more in proportion to the residue of his property, than the other in paying his 150*l.* He was aware, indeed, the revenue this tax produced was very great, but that was no argument why its oppressive features should be maintained. If the Right Hon. Gentleman looked only to the produce of a tax, regardless of its policy or its equity, he would proceed, in his opinion, upon the principle of Moliere's *Avare*, "*Il faut, L'Argent, L'Argent, L'Argent!*"—There was another thing which rendered the property tax more seemingly oppressive, the exemption from it which foreigners still enjoyed: 63,000*l.* were thus suffered to be lost annually, though as much the property of the State as that which was derived from any other source. In adverting to the manner in which the tax was collected, he would venture to affirm, that he never read an Act of Parliament which gave a greater and more unlimited power to Collectors and Assessors than was given by the Property Tax Act; a power too, which, it was well known, had been too often used with a wanton and unjustifiable indifference to the rights of individuals. His chief object, however, in calling the attention of the House to the subject, was, in the hope that something might be devised which would equalize the tax, and, by rendering it less oppressive to the middle classes of society, secure to it the permanency of those sources whence it derived its present ample produce. If the Right Hon. Gentleman would promise to give it attention; if he would pledge himself to turn the subject in his mind during the recess, he would then withdraw his motion; if not, he should certainly make it, and, whatever might be its fate, he would persist in making a similar one every year till some alleviation was obtained. The Hon. Baronet concluded by moving, "That the Property Tax, however just in its principles or necessary as a measure of finance, is raised by means that made it very oppressive to the middle classes of the community, and that it is expedient some enquiry should be instituted, with a view to ascertain how far it can be qualified and rendered more equal in its operation."—The Resolution was handed to the Speaker, but no Member seconding it, the motion was lost.

SUITS IN CHANCERY.

Mr. M. A. TAYLOR rose to make his motion respecting the delays that so notoriously existed in all Chancery causes. He commenced by stating, that his primary object was to ascertain what could be done by Legislative interference, to assist the Suitors in Chancery; but if it should turn out upon enquiry, that unnecessary delays were occasioned by the present Chancellor, he trusted he should not be accused of any personal disrespect towards that excellent person. The business of the Court of Chancery, continued the Hon. and Learned Gentleman, is not greater now than it was in the time of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke. He had himself once thought that the business had really increased of late years, but on enquiry he found that it had not increased. With respect to the present Lord Chancellor, he believed a man of greater kindness and humanity—of greater affability and good humour, never set in a Court of Justice; but with all these good qualities he might not have the talent of quick decision. His slowness of decision might arise from no over-anxious desire not to be wrong. As an illustration of the slowness of decision in the Court of Chancery, he needed only to state, that in Hilary Term, 1812, five decrees only were pronounced and no appeals were decided. There were on the paper 100 causes, so that Gentlemen might easily conceive what time would elapse before many of these causes could be determined. There were at the same time 39 appeals from the Master of the Rolls. To shew the dispatch of the Master of the Rolls, he would state that he made in 1810, 276 Decrees; in 1811, 280 Decrees; and in Hilary Term and Sittings afterwards, 102 Decrees. What was the reason, then, that so few causes were decided, while from the paper it appeared that, taking away Bankrupt actions, there were not more suits than in the time of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke? After some further observations, the Hon. and Learned Gentleman concluded with moving, that it be a special instruction to the Committee appointed to inquire into the delay in Suits in Chancery, to examine persons practising at the Bar of that Court, as well as Solicitors, touching the cause of that delay.

Lord MILTON seconded the motion.

Mr. MORRIS declared that it was impossible, he conceived, for a man to read the Papers before the House, and not to see the cause of the delay. It consisted in an increase of business, both in the Court of Chancery, and in the Court of Appellant Jurisdiction. His Hon. Friend had referred to the number of Bills filed in the time of Lord Hardwicke, and in the time of the present Chancellor, and assumed that as a criterion of the business which had come before the two Chancellors. This,

however, was a very unsatisfactory way of judging. During ten years of the present Lord Chancellor's time, there had been 19,188 motions, and 1,015 Petitions, more than in the ten corresponding years in the time of Lord Hardwicke.

Mr. ABERCROMBY said, that the documentary evidence produced did not shew causes sufficient to account for the delay complained of and admitted to exist; and the only other means that occurred of getting satisfactory evidence on this point was, to call witnesses to supply the defect.

Sir W. LEMON supported the motion.

Mr. SIMEON opposed it. If there was in the Court of Chancery ten times the business that could be done without working impossibilities, what occasion was there for an appeal to the bar on the subject?

Mr. TAYLOR replied.—After which the House divided.—For the motion, 20.—Against it, 84.—Majority against the motion, 64.—Adjourned.

Thursday, May 7.

REGENT'S CANAL BILL.

On the question for taking the Report of the Regent's Canal Bill into consideration,

Mr. CREEVEY thought that the Report which the Surveyor of the Crown Lands ought to have presented within thirty days after the commencement of the present Session of Parliament, should be produced previously to taking the Report of this Bill into their consideration. He should therefore move as an Amendment, that the Report be taken into consideration this day fortnight.

Mr. BROUGHAM could not allow the present Bill to pass without expressing his disapprobation of it. Its object was to break in upon a large and salubrious piece of ground, of the utmost consequence to the health and comfort of the inhabitants of this great and crowded metropolis. Mary-le-bone Park was the only place in the neighbourhood of the metropolis which had the appearance of the country, and no one who had a regard for the lower orders, and had witnessed the enjoyment and satisfaction which they displayed there on a Sunday, would wish to see them deprived of what was so essential both to their health and pleasure. What with the new Barracks, which would take up a great extent of ground, the Canal, the different places for loading and unloading on its banks, and the new villas, called by the modern fashionable name of *Quingettes*, not one tenth part of the ground of this Park would remain open to the people. He could not therefore look on this Bill with indifference. He would stand up in behalf of the poor inhabitants of the metropolis against the rich inhabitants, who wished to sacrifice their poorer neighbours to their own convenience.

Mr. POLE CAREW wished the Hon. and Learned Gentleman had attended to what had passed in the Committee, when he would have found there was really nothing in his objection. He would ask, if the water in Hyde Park at all obstructed the openness of the place?

The House then divided.—For the Amendment, 15—Against it, 49—Majority, 34.—The Bill was then ordered to be engrossed.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

The House having resumed the Committee on the Orders in Council, four witnesses were examined, Mr. G. Naylor and Mr. B. Rhodes, of Sheffield; and Mr. J. Wedgewood, and M. R. Stevenson, of Staffordshire.

TELLERSHIP OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Mr. CREEVEY rose, pursuant to his notice, to submit to the House certain Resolutions respecting those offices, now held by the Marquis of Buckinghamshire, and Earl Camden; held not as the reward of any services which they had performed, but in consideration of services performed by their fathers. The fees, out of which the salaries arose, were payable to them upon money issued out of the Exchequer for different purposes. They had, for example, seven shillings per cent. upon money paid for the ordinary services of the army; 3*s.* 9*d.* per cent. for the extraordinary services; 2*l.* 10*s.* per cent. upon money issued for pensions; 2*l.* per cent. for secret service money; and 1*s.* per cent. upon money issued for the navy. During the American war the fees amounted to 10000*l.* a-year each; and in time of peace it amounted only to 2500*l.* a-year. But such was the increased expenditure in the army and navy, that it appeared by the Report of the Committee of Public Expenditure, in 1808, their fees had risen to the enormous amount of 23,000*l.* a-year each; and if it was recollected how much our war expences had been enlarged even since that period, the House would concur with him in believing that now their salary was even greater than that by several thousands.—He would, indeed, venture to state, without fear of contradiction, that those public officers now received the interest of one million sterling! They each of them received a sum annually, which exceeded the united pensions granted for great and meritorious services to Lord Nelson, Lord Wellington Lord Duncan, Lord Hutchinson, and Lord St. Vincent!—In submitting to the House the Resolutions which he held in his hand, his object was to exhibit such incontrovertible facts with regard to the fees, as might lead the House to propose a reduction of them. He did not call upon the House, indeed, to state what would be their precise amount so reduced, but to make them more conformable to the emoluments of similar offices, and more suitable to the present condition of the country. The Hon. Member then read his Resolutions, and the first being put, namely, "That the office of Tellership of the Exchequer was executed entirely by Deputy, and granted to the present Possessors of it for services done by their respective Fathers,"

Mr. PERCEVAL arose to state his determination of moving the previous question, in order to get rid of all the introductory Resolutions, and of negativing the last. The Hon. and Learned Member seemed to think that the persons holding the office in question had no vested rights in that office; but that they had vested rights in the grant was undoubted. The office, indeed, was coeval, he might say, with the Exchequer itself, and that alone proved the right of the Crown to grant it. He concluded by moving the previous question.

Mr. PONSONBY differed from some positions laid down by his Hon. Friend (Mr. Creevey).—He contended that by the law of England, an *estate in office* might be, and was in many cases, as much *private property* as any other species of property could be. He was aware that the sentiments which then fell from him might be considered as unpopular. He should regret that they were so; but no regret or apprehension of that nature should ever deter him from the public avowal of those principles which appeared to him to be essential to the real interests of the country.—(*Hear, hear!*)

Lord A. HAMILTON said, that if instead of 30,000*l.* a-year, which these Tellerships now produced, they should mount up to 130,000*l.* still, on the principles on which his Right Hon. Friend argued the question, the House had no right to interfere! This was a doctrine to which, as a guardian of the Public Purse, he could not suffer himself to agree. When the two Noble Lords alluded to were appointed to those offices, they yielded about 7000*l.* a-year each, and now they produced, to each of the Noble Lords, about 30,000*l.* a-year.—(*No, no, only about 23,000l. or 25,000l. from the Ministerial Bench.*) For his own part, he would never consent to give his vote that the House could not interfere to the effect of regulating the amount of the emoluments arising to any public officer.

Mr. WHITBREAD was convinced there was not a subject in the Realm who would not lament if those Officers were above the control of the House. Let the services of the late Earl Camden, or of Mr. George Grenville, be as meritorious as they could be imagined, he could not help being persuaded that they would be amply rewarded even by the amount of emolument drawn by the late first Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Yorke) as Teller of Exchequer. He thought there could be no doubt that Parliament, if it chose, might order that the sums to be raised in taxes for the present year should pass through the Exchequer without paying any fees whatever.

Mr. HORNER opposed the motion.

Mr. BANKES was of opinion that the emoluments of those offices were excessive, and if the House chose to apply a cure, he thought they had the power of doing so without giving to any

human being a right to complain. He did not wish this, however, to be done by compulsion, but by an agreement between the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for the public, on the one hand, and these Tellers of the Exchequer on the other.

Mr. BATHURST admitted that the fees received by the Tellers were now much larger than at the time of the creation of the offices, but this could not be urged as any sufficient reason for invading *private property*. As well might it be said that the Chancellor should be deprived of the large emoluments arising from bankruptcies, because in modern times they had been so greatly augmented.

Mr. WILBERFORCE was desirous of knowing whether these offices were in reality to be deemed private property, or whether they were held under any qualification or condition?

Mr. TIERNEY expressed his willingness to sustain his share of the unpopularity which would attach to a complete concurrence with his Right Hon. Friend (Mr. Ponsonby).

After some further debate, the Resolutions of Mr. CREEVEY were negatived without a division.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

The Marquis of TAVISTOCK adverted to the augmented influence of the Crown, declaring that by means of it the Sovereign was enabled to retain in his service Ministers whose conduct had his approbation though their measures are universally condemned by the people, who loudly called for their exclusion from power.—(*Hear!*)—It would not be denied, he apprehended, that the votes of Parliament were sometimes in direct opposition to the sentiments of the nation at large; and he believed that it would be equally readily admitted that some reform was necessary. He did not mean to say, that it would be proper in the first instance, to adopt any general or violent measure, to attempt an immediate Reform; on the contrary, he thought the only wise and prudent mode would be to proceed, step by step, until at length the object so much desired was attained, a full, fair, and adequate Representation of the People in Parliament.—(*Hear, hear!*)—The purpose he had in view by the Bill he should afterwards submit to the House, was to limit to a certain extent the expences of County Elections.—(*Hear, hear!*)—In the first place he should endeavour to prevent the great inconvenience to which freeholders were subject in travelling to the town where the election was to take place, and in the next place to put an end to the corrupt practice of giving money to voters under the pretence of defraying the charges they had incurred in coming to poll.—He should suggest that the electors should be allowed to give in their votes in the hundred in which they resided, and that one day be appointed for renewing suffrages in each hundred. He should add to this the establishment of a Special County Court for the nomination of candidates. His Lordship then moved for leave to bring in a Bill "for regulating the election of Knights of the Shire to serve in Parliament."

Mr. PERCEVAL said, he did not rise to oppose, in its first stage, a measure which had in view so desirable an object as the limitation of the expences of County Elections. He wished it, however, to be distinctly understood, that he was giving no pledge of approbation to any of the provisions the Noble Lord might deem it expedient to introduce. He begged also explicitly to declare, that in not opposing the introduction of this Bill, he was not admitting that either that or any other measure was necessary to diminish what was termed the overgrown influence of the Crown, by means of which the Noble Lord had asserted that the Sovereign had it in his power to continue any Administration, however impotent or obnoxious to the country. He was convinced that the assertion was not well founded; in the present state of the Constitution it was not in the power of the Crown to retain in its service any Administration that, in the judgment of the people, was unworthy of or inadequate to the situations they occupied.—(*Hear, hear, hear!*)—The Sovereign, however, had authority sufficient to continue his confidence to those individuals who, anxious for the well being of the empire, had conducted its affairs with as able a judgment, and as firm a hand, as any of their rivals.—(*Loud cheers.*)—If the Noble Lord should think it prudent to throw out any challenge upon this ground, he (Mr. P.) should be always ready to meet and to answer it, for he conceived the remark to have been made by the Noble Mover with reference to the present Administration.—(*Hear, hear!*)—If the contrast were pressed upon him, he would venture to assert that the other side of the House could not adduce a single instance from the transactions of the last Administration, which, either in point of vigour, of wisdom, or of success, could for a moment be put in comparison with the exertions and achievements of the present.—(*Hear, hear, and laughing.*)—Adjourned.

Friday, May 8.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

Mr. BRAND, in the course of a very judicious speech upon this subject, observed, that he never had contended against the full and fair influence of property in the return of Members to Parliament, but it was somewhat singular that 182 individuals, by nomination or influence, returned 326 Members to that House.—(*Hear, hear!*)—This number, he was convinced, must astonish those most inclined to doubt of the necessity of any Reform, yet such was the fact,—There were about seventy Placemen in the House, and about forty on either side, by what was termed compromise. He would confine himself, however, to what he conceived illegal.—One hundred and eighty-two persons nominated one hundred and ninety-two, the rest of the number was through influence. They had voted themselves to be the fair, full, and free representatives of the people; and yet this was the fact, which he was prepared to prove.—There were above seventy Placemen, which made a total of 262 persons that were not full, fair, or free thinkers, upon any subject discussed in that House. To remedy this unconstitutional and injurious state of the Representation, Mr. Brand thought, in the first place, that those places, which were extinct *in rerum natura*, should be so got rid of, that the expression of the will of the people should alone be effectual. In the next place, the class of copyholders, who were extremely numerous and respectable, should be allowed to vote. There were, besides, many places of great extent and opulence which were excluded from the representation—for instance, Manchester, Birmingham, the extensive county of York, which returned but two Members, and the great and populous district to the north of Oxford road. What he objected to was, that 182 individuals should, by nomination and influence, direct the votes of that House. If the practice was confined to the aristocracy it might not give so much offence, as the open sale and assumption of the rights of the people by persons of a different description—by persons returning from the eastern world with coffers loaded with ill-gotten treasure, habituated to the two extremes of despotism and servility, who became the usurpers of the rights of free and independent Englishmen. He could not dwell on such a picture without the strongest feelings of disgust.—(*Hear, hear, hear!*)—His object then was, to get rid of the boroughs, and to throw the Members into the rich and populous manufacturing towns which were at present unrepresented. Nomination was the radical evil which he wished to correct; a House of Commons so elected, considered theoretically, might register the act of a Minister, give him a Bill of Indemnity, or screen him from condemnation by a majority. By such a House of Commons the King might be rendered more dangerous to the Constitution, and more loose to act according to the impulse of his will, than if there was no House of Commons at all; but by such a House, the people were not represented.—(*Hear, hear!*)—It was admitted on all hands that an oligarchy existed; but it was contended, at the same time, that there was enough of democratic feeling to answer all ends. This doctrine he denied totally; for he saw nothing but a contest of aristocratic feeling in all this clashing of parties and opposition of interests. He saw, on the one hand, a disappointed, ambitious, and dissatisfied aristocracy; and, on the other, a faction of rich and powerful borough-mongering proprietors.—The description might appear highly-coloured; but he knew no other mode of designating a system, which presented to his view a close and dangerous oligarchy, equally hostile to the privileges of the Crown and the rights of the People.—(*Hear!*)

In conclusion, he expressed a hope that the Right Hon. Gentleman (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) would allow him to bring in the Bills for which he should move; the introduction of which, he was persuaded, would do more to satisfy the country and insure success, both internally and externally, than any other measure which could be adopted. The Hon. Gentleman then moved for leave to bring in a Bill, to repeal the 31st of Geo. II. c. 48. and to entitle Copyholders to vote for the Election of Knights of the Shire to Seats in Parliament.

The Marquis of TAVISTOCK seconded the motion, which was also most ably supported by Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY, Mr. WHITBREAD, and Sir JOHN NEWPORT.—It was opposed by Mr. ELLIOTT, Mr. LYTTLETON, Mr. W. WARD, Lord MILTON, Mr. D. GIDDY, Mr. GOOCH, Lord CASTLEREAGH, and Mr. PERCEVAL; on the general ground that the House of Commons, as at present constituted, represented the whole people already, and that innovation might lead to incalculable evils.—Mr. WARD said, that the House spoke the sense of the people, not from day to day, but from period to period,—on the aggregate, and not as momentarily inflamed by ignorance or passion;—and Lord MILTON entreated the House to pause before they should lay sacrilegious hands on the respectable fabric raised by their ancestors, and to respect in it the work of God, who had inspired the idea for the good of mankind.—Mr. D. GIDDY, too, maintained that close boroughs were absolutely necessary to the safety of the Constitution!—while Mr. PERCEVAL bravely asserted (the Walcheren Expedition Vote having been adduced in proof that the House and the people totally disagreed in opinion) that the public approved the whole of that measure! —Upon a division the motion was of course lost, there being only 88 for it, while 215 voted against it; thus exhibiting a majority of 127.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

T. Richards, Clerkenwell, baker.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Kinnear, Liverpool, merchant.
T. Nelson, Manchester, machine-maker.
G. G. Elwall, Nantwich, Cheshire, linen-draper.
J. Burgiss, jun. Uxbridge, stone-mason.
W. Porter, Wilton, Hertfordshire, corn-factor.
W. Cousens, Clare-street, Clare-market, grocer.
J. Lane, Pawlett, Somersetshire, innholder.
G. Stacey, Angel-court, London, factor.
J. Dover, Burnham, Bucks, butcher.
J. Stone, Featherstone-buildings, Holborn, tailor.
S. Sheffield, Aldgate High-street, butcher.
J. Gunson, Salford, Manchester, brewer.
H. Bagg, Beaminster, Dorsetshire, linen-draper.
J. Mallalieu, sen. Saddleworth, Yorkshire, cotton spinner.
J. Carter, Kingsane, Devonshire, salesman.
S. Wheatly, Bristol, grocer.
E. J. Joyce, Playhouse-yard, Whitecross-street, Middlesex, paper-stainer.
J. Hargrave, Kingston-upon-Hull, linen-draper.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains a Letter from Capt. Talbot, of the Victorious, dated Lissa, March 3, giving an account of the capture of the Rivoli French 74.—It appears that on the 21st of February, the Victorious, off Venice, discovered a large ship, two brigs, and two settees, proceeding from Venice to Pola in Istria. At half-past four the Victorious, with the Weazle, commenced the action with the Rivoli, at the distance of half pistol-shot. The enemy, says Capt. Talbot, after a stern resistance for 5 hours, being perfectly unmanageable, struck; when "I found the squadron we had engaged consisted of two gunboats, the Mameluke brig of ten guns, and Jem and Mercure, of eighteen guns each, with the Rivoli, of seventy-four guns, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore Barre, the Commander in Chief of the enemy's forces in the Adriatic.—From the length of the action, and the smoothness of the water, the loss of men and the damages on both sides, I am sorrow to say, have been very great indeed, neither ship having been above half musket-shot distance from each other during the whole of the action, which only ceased at intervals, when the ships were hid from each other by the fog and smoke, and were not even able to see the flashes of each other's guns.

"I feel great satisfaction in saying that the conduct of Commodore Barre, during the whole of the action, convinced me I had to deal with a most gallant and brave man, and, in the manœuvring his ship, a most experienced and skilful officer. He did not surrender his ship till nearly two hours after she was rendered unmanageable, and had four hundred killed or wounded. By the returns you will perceive, Sir, that our loss too has been very severe. I have to regret, as well as the service, the loss of two very fine young men, Lieuts. Thomas H. Griffith and Robert S. Ashbridge, of the Royal Marines, who were mortally wounded, early in the action, with many other brave and good men, both seamen and marines.

"The conduct of the officers has been throughout highly meritorious, both during the action, and also in securing the masts of the ship, in the very bad weather we met before we gained the port of Lissa. Having received a contusion from a splinter early in the action, for some days afterwards I have been deprived nearly of my eye-sight; all which time the exertions by Mr. Peake, my senior Lieutenant, prevented my inability from being of any detriment to his Majesty's service."

[Here the Captain proceeds to praise the good conduct of Messrs. Baird and O'Meara, the Surgeons,—Messrs. Gibbons and Keeling, Master's Mates,—Mr. Crawford, the Master,—and Capt. Stevens, of the Marines. He concludes:—]

"When we commenced the action the Victorious had only 506 persons actually on board, 60 of which were in the sick list, but most of the sick were able to assist in the action. The Rivoli had on board 862 persons at the commencement of the action.—I have the honour to be, &c. "T. TALBOT."

[Then follows a Letter from the Captain of the Weazle, stating, that on his engaging the Mercure, one of the French brigs, of 18 guns, after an action of 40 minutes, she blew up, without doing any damage to the Weazle. Only three Frenchmen were saved. The Mercure's consort, another brig, escaped, after the loss of her companion.

And a Letter from Capt. Cunningham, of the Bermuda, states the re-capture of the Apelles sloop, which, with the Skylark, had got on shore near Etaples, and had been taken by the enemy.—The boats of the Bermuda, Phipps, Rinaldo, and Castilian, under Lieut. Sanders, boarded the Apelles under a galling fire from the shore, and brought her out, the French troops on board having previously been driven out by the fire of the squadron. The Skylark had been destroyed.]

SUPPLEMENT.

Downing-street, May 9.

A Dispatch, of which the following is an extract, has been received by Lord Liverpool, addressed to his Lordship by the Earl of Wellington, dated Niza, 16th April, 1812.

Marshal Soult collected his army at Villa Franca, in Estremadura, on the 8th inst. and having there heard of the fall of Badajos, he retired before day-light on the 9th towards the frontiers of Andalusia. Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham directed Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton to follow their rear with the cavalry; and he attacked and defeated the French cavalry at Villa Garcia with Major-General Le Marchant's and Major-General Anson's brigades, the latter under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable F. Ponsonby, on the morning of the 11th inst. I have the honour to inclose Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham's letter, inclosing Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton's report, and the return of the killed and wounded on this occasion; and I

have only to add my commendations of the conduct of Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton, Major-General Le Marchant, and the officers and troops under their command.

The enemy retired on that day from Llerena, and, since, entirely from the Province of Estremadura.

I have not yet heard whether General Ballasteros had entered Seville. The Conde de Penne Villemur, with a detachment of the 5th Army, which had been sent from Estremadura into the Condado de Niebla, had approached that town by the right of the Guadalquiver, and was engaged with the enemy's garrison of Seville, and of the fortified convent on that side of the river, on the 5th inst. and had obliged them to retire within their works. The Conde de Penne Villemur retreated on the 10th, according to a suggestion which was made to him by me in consequence of the fall of Badajos, and the certainty that I had that Marshal Soult would return immediately into Andalusia without risking an action, to which it was not in my power to bring him; and I trust that the Conde de Penne Villemur will have communicated to Gen. Ballasteros the intelligence and suggestion which I desired might be conveyed to him.

Since I wrote to your Lordship on the 7th instant, I have received reports of transactions in the neighbourhood of Ciudad Rodrigo only to the 9th instant. The enemy still kept the place blockaded, but had made no attack upon it, nor had repeated their visit to Almeida, having suffered some loss in the reconnoissance of that place on the 3d instant.

It appears that on the 7th, the greatest number of the troops in the neighbourhood of Ciudad Rodrigo broke up, and marched towards Sabugal, where I believe that Marshal Marmont came himself. Major-Gen. Victor Alten, whom I had kept in front of Ciudad Rodrigo with the 1st hussars, till the end of March, was followed (although at a distance) through Lower Beira, by Marshal Marmont's advanced guard; and having quitted Castello Branco on the 8th instant, they moved on; and the advanced guard, consisting of 2,500 men, of which six squadrons of cavalry entered Castello Branco on the evening of the 12th. Brigadier-General Le Cor, with his brigade of militia, having been obliged to retire upon Sarmades, when he saw the enemy advance.

In the mean time, having heard that Gen. Alten had retired across the Tagus, I ordered him to cross that river again, which he did on the 12th, and the enemy retired from Castello Branco before daylight on the morning of the 14th, and Brigadier-Gen. Le Cor and Major-Gen. Alten entered the place.

The enemy have as usual, in this expedition, robbed and murdered the inhabitants of the country. But the injury which they have done, as far as I can learn, has been confined to these acts of atrocity; all the stores in our magizines at Castello Branco, and our hospital there, having been removed to this side of the Tagus.

I cannot sufficiently applaud the firmness and good conduct of Brigadier-General Le Cor. He remained in Castello Branco, till he saw a superior enemy advancing upon him; and he then retired in good order, no further than was necessary.

As soon as I heard of Soult's retreat from Villa Franca, I put the army in motion towards Castille. The advanced guard has arrived at Castello Branco this day; and I shall go there myself to-morrow.

I have heard of no movement in the north.

[Here follows Gen. Cotton's Letter, giving an account of the attack and overthrow of Gen. Drouet's Cavalry (2500 strong) by four regiments of British Cavalry, who pursued the French four miles, killed many, and took prisoners a Lieut.-Colonel, two Captains, one Lieutenant, 150 privates, and 130 horses. —The English had 13 rank and file, 18 horses, and one Serjeant, killed; and Major Prescott, Lieut. Walker, 4 Serjeants, 36 rank and file, and 9 horses, wounded; and 2 rank and file, and 17 horses, missing.]

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

H. Kelleway, Longham, Southamptonshire, maltster.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Harman, Bush-lane, wholesale ironmonger.
W. Lane, jun. Birmingham, iron-dealer.
T. Jordan, Crucifix-lane, Southwark, victualler.
W. Field, Mill-street, Hanover-square, apothecary.
A. Carrington, Crutched-friars, lighterman.
B. Jones, Ratcliff-highway, slopseller.
J. Millard, jun. Bristol, baker.
J. Lander, Birmingham, merchant.
T. Kidwell, Itchenor, Sussex, ship-builder.
W. Llewellyn, Fenchurch-street, merchant.
S. Turner, Stone, Staffordshire, butcher.
M. Newham, Falkingham, Lincolnshire, carpenter.
R. Anderton, Birmingham, cutler.
N. Carkeet, Skinner-street, Snow-hill, upholsterer.
C. Chapman, West Tilbury, Essex, draper.
R. Swaine and B. Stephenson, Leeds, merchants.
W. Masters, Wareham, Dorsetshire, innholder.
J. Chapman, Bakewell, Derbyshire, mercer.
J. Chittenden, Bolsover-street, Oxford-street, builder.
R. Merryweather, and R. Brain, Ardwich, Lancaster, brewers.
C. Powell, Rockfield, Monmouth, timber-merchant.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

Consols..... .....60¾

THE EXAMINER.

London, May 10.

The movements in the North of Europe have become highly interesting, since Sweden has put on so decided an aspect under her new leader. It is said that she has already made proposals to Denmark for an armed neutrality as a mutual security for the Baltic, and perhaps the greatest obstacle in the way of the latter's compliance will be a recollection of our usage of her, not because such a neutrality would be offensive to England, but because it would be removing a step from her connexion with France, and we may be assured, that, under circumstances of doubtful policy, England is the very last power whom Denmark would oblige even collaterally. If Sweden, however, adheres to the present tone, and if French influence should appear to be on the decline in the rest of the North of Europe, even this obstruction would probably be of no long duration. The King of Denmark, who, without any great compliment, may fairly be reckoned the best of all the legitimate Sovereigns, is a cautious and calculating Prince, and has steered as quiet a course as was possible through the dangers of these tempestuous times; and if in consequence of Bernadotte's feelings, a new and safer character should be given to Anti-Gallican resistance, his Majesty would most probably waive his resentment against us on the score of good policy, and by his junction with Sweden inspire the cause with a double confidence at once. With regard to Alexander, it is impossible to form any judgment of the conduct of one who possesses no judgment of his own:—it may be wise or it may be foolish, as chance or a set of Ministers may turn up;—but always keeping Bernadotte's talents and directing powers before us, the accession of his interest would be great in a physical point of view. So com-

pletely does the aspect of things alter with the mind that informs them: and so different was the promise of a Northern Coalition when there were none but legitimate Swedes and Russians to guide it, from that of a coalition at this moment, when there is a chance of its being headed by talent and set in motion by proper spirit. The reader has heard af a conspiracy in Petersburgh; and among the rumours and speculations respecting the probability of a change in the policy of the Russian Cabinet, this circumstance has added considerably to some people's hopes; for the conspiracy is said to have been instigated by France, and to have had for its object nothing less than the murder of ALEXANDER and his brother, and the elevation of the EMPRESS DOWAGER to the throne, a scheme which, if true, may well be represented as having extremely irritated the EMPEROR, and provoked him to make vehement declaration against NAPOLEON. But a Russian conspiracy is nothing new or surprising, and may have originated at home without the least impulse from any other bad feelings than those of a semi-barbarous aristocracy long used to these matters, and tired perhaps of a Sovereign who cannot force their respect. BONAPARTE has enough to answer for in all conscience, without being called to account for a clumsy contrivance, which with regard to his interests would be quite as stupid as wicked, for the riddance of one weak individual could not possibly be any security for his successor, and as the object of such a conspiracy must infallibly get abroad whether the scheme were successful or not, the national feeling would inevitably be turned against it, and another conspiracy would make another change in a moment. So obvious is this reasoning, that after all, the very report of a French conspiracy in Petersburgh may be nothing more than a stratagem to excite Anti-Gallican feelings; and according to all accounts, it has succeeded in this respect, whether founded in fact or not. It is certain, at any rate, that ALEXANDER has published an edict for recruiting his armies on a large scale throughout the whole of the realm.

Whatever be the real state of the case, and of the probabilities of a new and effectual coalition, all that is to be desired on that head is, that bounds may be put to the ambition of BONAPARTE, not that any Northern and less enlightened despotism should actually conquer the despotism of France:—in other words, it is only requisite that free states should become safe, not that slavish ones should change places.—But of what are we dreaming? Is not all Germany and Italy in possession of France? Are not Russia and Denmark still with her? Is not BONAPARTE the greatest soldier of his day, and a chief of almost inexhaustible resources, mental and physical? How does the image of one single spirited and sensible opponent of his run away with us!

☞

It will be seen by last night's Supplement to the Gazette, that Lord WELLINGTON has not (as the Ministerial Journals said he would) followed the enemy into Andalusia, and raised the siege of Cadiz.—On the contrary, MARMONT has advanced into Portugal, and compelled his Lordship to move northward; so that the simple possession of Badajoz is all that has resulted from that costly capture.—Seville, too, is still in the hands of the French.

The *Chronicle* says, that there have been, although not very lately, serious commotions at Paris. Notwithstanding the vigilance of the Police there, on account of the dearness of the first article of subsistence, as many as 20,000 malcontents were on one occasion collected, and the following inscription was discovered the next morning on the walls of the Thuilleries:—"Bread, Peace, or the Head of the Tyrant."—To appease the multitude, the bakers were immediately required to supply the Citizens with bread at four sous instead of ten sous the pound, and order was in consequence restored.

There is a long account in the French Papers of the achievements of the Orient squadron during its late cruize; it captured and burnt the George Will, the Camel, the Mary, the Ocean, the John, and the Neptune; it brought too the American ship Dolphin, from Lisbon to Gottenburgh. "This vessel was a good prize, but the Admiral contented himself with exacting from the Captain his word of honour, not to say that he had met with the French squadron. This conduct towards the United States is very different from that of the English, who press the American sailors."

There are upwards of 100 persons now confined in Lancaster Castle, charged with rioting.—It is in contemplation to issue several *special* commissions to try the rioters, in the North, and at Chester.

Mr. FITZGERALD, in the common-place Verses recited at the Literary Fund Anniversary Dinner, exultingly tells us, that the abominable Slave Trade was abolished in the reign of GEORGE the Third. This is true; but does he mean to say (for it appears as if he did) that the KING was favourable to the abolition? Now, it is pretty well known, that not only his MAJESTY, but every Member of the Royal Family, with the exception of his Highness of GLOUCESTER, were adverse to the destruction of that horrid traffic.

JOHN LAKE, the author of the *House of Morville*, a drama, lately performed at the Lyceum, is a person in humble life, following the employment of a tailor, in Stanhope-street.—He is a native of North Britain; but had not the advantage of an education beyond that of the most common order.—He is said to be a very worthy and modest man; and it is painful to hear, that he has not been benefitted one sixpence by his piece, although it was performed several nights, has been published, and has even reached a second edition.

The Surgeons of Greenwich Hospital, it is said, are to have their salaries increased, and be forbidden to follow any private practice. If the same wholesome regulation was adopted in the army, would it not be highly beneficial, for there is scarcely a regiment near town whose Head Surgeon does not keep a shop. For instance, Mr. CARRUTHERS, of the Second Tower Hamlets Militia, now keeps two, one in the Commercial-road, and the other at Mile End. Is it possible that this person can attend to 500 rank and file and upwards at Deptford, and at the same time manage the business of two shops in town?

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—Mr. CAMPBELL delivered his second Lecture on Poetry on Wednesday, to a splendid assembly of Ladies and Gentlemen, attracted by the just fame of his preceding Essay. The Hall of the Institution, though so spacious, was crowded, and the Professor amply gratified his auditors by the sublime and beautiful illustrations with which he interspersed his elegant and energetic descriptions of the primitive Poetry of Holy Writ, and of the earliest Poets.—It is to be hoped that Mr. CAMPBELL will publish these Lectures.

SPITALFIELDS SOUP SOCIETY.

In the *Philanthropist* there is a detail of the proceedings of the Soup Society in Spitalfields, which was first established in 1797, and has been continued ever since. It is impossible to peruse this statement without the most lively sympathy. The description of the state of misery that prevails in that neighbourhood, and of the relief afforded by the benevolent exertions of this Society, must make a deep impression on the hearts of all who are not callous to the feelings of humanity. It appears that 3000 quarts of a strong meat soup is delivered out, at one penny per quart, to 1000 families every day. The soup requires each day—

Beef . . .	856 lbs.	Onions .	40 lbs.
Scots Barley .	426 lbs.	Pepper .	3 lbs. 14 oz.
Split Peas .	317 lbs.	Salt . .	62 lbs.

It is calculated that 7000 persons partake of this soup daily. The materials are all of the best kind, and the difference between the cost of the soup and the money paid by the poor occasions a loss to the Institution of more than 150l per week. This is supported by voluntary contributions, and a Committee of Visitors attend regularly to see the work of charity duly performed.

They have lately made an investigation of the character and condition of the poor who receive this daily supply. It appears, that of 1504 families, consisting of 7186 persons, only 1094 could read.—A great proportion of these poor families are weavers, and there are now 2852 looms unemployed, and an equal number with only half employ; and it is calculated that the number of dependants for bread on each loom are between three and four. What must have been their deplorable condition but for this seasonable relief? They acknowledge themselves, with grateful hearts, that they must have starved. This benevolent work is carried on by a Committee, the Members of which are of different religious denominations. They meet once a fortnight, and "here Dissenters and Churchmen, forgetting their little differences of opinion in other respects, unite cordially together in the work of Christian benevolence. The sight of so many respectable persons, of various religious sentiments, acting harmoniously for the relief of suffering humanity, is, indeed, an impressive and edifying spectacle. This is one of the triumphs of philanthropy peculiar to the present day, over that intolerant, narrow, and bigotted spirit, which is in effect crying out, "Stand by thyself; come not near me, for I am better than thou."

The model of this Institution, as well as the schedule they have taken of the poor in the district, is worthy the attentive perusal of the humane in every part of the kingdom.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 115.

LYCEUM.

THE Lyceum goes on extremely well, except when the Manager of the English Opera produces a piece of his own, and then it undergoes a regular fit of dullness, as in the medley which appeared last Wednesday, and which is understood to be another of Mr. ARNOLD's annual contributions. This "new" piece, made after the good old Lagoda patent, is called, by way of attraction, the *Devil's Bridge*; and is described by the author as an Operatic Romance, that is to say, a miscellany of speaking and pantomime, landscapes and dungeons, soldiers, lovers, fine clothes, songs, horrors, and merry andrews, virtue in distress, and wicked, inordinate barons in whiskers and half-boots. All these are to be found in the *Devil's Bridge*; and the reader will easily understand all that is to be found in it besides, when he obtains a hint of the story. There is a family of peasants then, who assist injured travellers,—a persecuted and peripatetic lady with her little boy,—a lover in disguise, who turns out to be the husband of the lady just returned from the coast of Barbary,—a bravo, who deals in assassinations on the shortest notice,—and a baron seeking unlawfully to marry the said lady, while at the very same time (only think of the original scoundrel!) he has a wife of his own, *all* in a dungeon. The dialogue belonging to this venerable history, is of course in the possession of any reader who has frequented the theatre for the last ten or a dozen years, and so are the songs, with the exception perhaps of a little additional sprinkling of ahs! and ohs! with which Mr. ARNOLD seems to have been inspired in consequence of his late theatrical acquaintance with Mr. MOORE, and which, he flatters himself no doubt, have given him all the graces of that gentleman's style. The only incident, with a shadow of novelty, is one in which *Count Belino*, the lover, disguised as a wandering artist, explains to the guilty Baron, his enemy, a drawing of his which had fallen into the latter's hands, and which to his great terror and rage, and to the ultimate detection of the Count, describes a main part of his iniquities. This is done by a song, which is composed by Mr. BRAHAM in a style of great expressiveness and insinuation, and sung by him in a manner quite worthy the composition. The rest of the music by that Gentleman and Mr. HORN has little pretension to novelty or science. Two songs of the latter, in particular, which are sung with great spirit by Mrs. DICKONS, are singularly deficient in expression, more than half of the music in both instances being directly contrary to the cast of the words,—playful when it should be in repose, and absolutely sprightly when it should be sad.

The principal novelty of the piece altogether is the appearance of a young Gentleman, who, according to a long puff for Mr. ARNOLD, in the *Morning Chronicle*, is the son of Signor ROVEDINO, and a pupil of Mr. BRAHAM. His aspect is not prepossessing, nor his personal bearing indicative of a talent for acting; but his voice is melodious, firm, and of good compass; and he promises to do credit to his master,—singular credit indeed, if he remains, as at present, unspoiled by the vicious ornament of the latter, whose "*purity of style*" is certainly to be found nowhere but in the puff above-mentioned, whatever may be the case with respect to his "clearness of articulation."

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

Yesterday week, the Royal Academy gave their annual dinner to the patrons of the Arts. Late in the day the Prince Regent sent to say that he was prevented from dining with the Academicians, and his royal brothers at the same time sent excuses. The Lord Chancellor and most of the great Officers of State were present. The lamp presented to the Academy by the Regent was lighted after dinner, and had a rich and harmonious effect. On the Regent's health being given, the Marquis of Stafford rose to state by command of his Royal Highness his regret at being prevented from dining with the Academy, and his hope that the lamp he had given them might be found to answer its purpose; the Marquis adding at the same time, that if it were found to be in any thing defective, the Prince Regent would direct the proper alterations to be made in it.—The British Institution was given by Mr. West, and thanks were returned by the Marquis of Stafford. The healths of the Noblemen and Gentlemen visitors on the occasion were drank by the Academy, and thanks returned by the Lord Chancellor.—Mr. West spoke on the comparatively great and unequalled progress of the Arts in this country within a limited time, instancing the different periods of its advancement in ancient and modern days, and bearing a faithful and warm testimony to the just ambition of excellence which characterized the students of the Academy, and the distinguished talents of many of its Members. This speech was much applauded.

Drained as the purses of the people are to supply the increased demands of cupidity, profligacy, and war, and altogether unassisted as Painting ever has been by Government, it is no wonder that from year to year the Academy Exhibitions are so scanty in those works which constitute the chief glory of art, that poetical and historical pieces are so few, and confined to the pencils of those ardent and persevering painters, who are stimulated rather by a love of their art and the praises of the discerning, than by the hope of pecuniary advantage.

It must, however, be confessed, that the Royal Academy, constituting as it does nearly the collective mass of talent in the kingdom, and professedly embodied not only for the particular benefit of its Members, but for the general advancement of taste, is lamentably deficient in a due endeavour to effect that advancement. Till it affords better proof of being animated with that best and most inspiring feeling of professors of art, an aim at exalted character,—till it gives better proof than it has done of exerting itself for the advancement of the public taste, the complaint must be considered in a great measure unjust, that the public taste affords no encouragement to its production of more historical exhibitions. It is their duty to endeavour at least to create that taste. But a consummation so devoutly to be wished, never can be looked for as long as we see the Academy placing the grace-fraught pictures of Mr. Stothard, such as his *Amphitrite* and *Canace with the Enchanted Ring*, nearly on the floor, while the worthless landscapes of Mr. Farrington occupy the best situations in the rooms.—The Exhibition abounds in landscape and portraiture, of both of which there are some beautiful specimens, and contains some respectable pieces from low life by Bird and Heaphy, two exquisite sketches by Wilkie, and an animated incident from genteel life by Sharpe. It has also some good architectural drawings, a little pleasing statuary, and some admirable busts. In this pictorial olio, Messrs. Stothard, Fuseli, Northcote, Thomson, Dawe, and Hilton, have, however, regaled us with a few dishes of higher flavour, whose ingredients are drawn from the regions of history and poetry; and the President, West, has presented us with one that is rare and racy, in the union of dignified landscape and history. It represents *Saul before Samuel and the Prophets.* The main figures arranged in a simple horizontal direction across the front of the piece, the spacious valley, with its winding river, its magnificent edifices, and its boundaries of mountains, some towering above the clouds, altogether exhibit a truly grand composition. It is in unison with the various and dignified expression of the figures, especially Samuel and Saul, whose rapt and inspired countenance animatedly exemplifies the description in the verses that supply the subject. The colouring of the picture is, together with the chiaro-scuro, in perfect accordance with this dignity of design, composition, and expression. The figures, fore-ground, and sky, are mostly in warm, mellow, rich, and deep tones, with the light sparingly but beautifully introduced, and falling chiefly on the principal figures and part of the sky. Thus the colouring, though rich, is kept so subdued and still in most of its tints, that the picture has a due solemnity, and is solid without heaviness. It possesses the President's free and vigorous execution, and, in fine, is one of those few grand works, where a variety of uncommon excellence harmoniously concerts to one undivided, powerful, and complete impression.

Mr. Fuseli's style of painting may be in some respects compared to that style of deportment and conversation, which, deficient in the minor graces, is vehement, harsh, and sometimes repulsive, but is associated with originality of manner, language, and thought, generally interesting and vigorous. His colouring is slovenly, and he is occasionally extravagant in his design, attitudes, and expression; in fine, he wants simplicity, but he never fails to warm and lay powerful hold of our feelings. No painter has ever transported our imaginations so fervidly and so far into the obscure and awful regions of ideal and supernatural existence. He is in this respect the Shakspeare of painting. In 134, *Ulysses addressing the Shade of Ajax in Tartarus*, he has most forcibly pourtrayed the sullen silence and disdain of the spirit.—His *Lady Macbeth seizing the daggers* as she exclaims to Macbeth, "Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers!" is equally forcible in its display of her unsexing ambition, and scorn of her husband's misgivings of conscience.—The heavy mantle that envelopes the squalid hag in his picture of *the Witch plucking the Mandrake*, her uncouth and cowering position, her ugliness and malignant satisfaction of face peeping under a hood, and by moon-light, present to fancy's eye an impressive representation of a necromantic Beldam.

136, *The disobedient Prophet slain by a Lion*, is a picture of appropriate energy of conception and execution. Mr. Northcote has displayed his accustomed talent in the painting of animals. The old Prophet, who is come to look at the catastrophe, shudders with sympathetic emotion at the disastrous spectacle. The sobriety of the colouring is well suited to the subject, which is, however, by no means a favourable one.

R. H. *(To be continued.)*

COALITIONS.—LORDS GREY AND GRENVILLE.

Mr. Examiner,—I cannot reflect on this subject without expressing my surprise how little the public seem to advert to a Coalition, comparatively recent, of the most opposite and heterogenous kind that can be imagined. Not only are the names of Grey and Grenville most blindly and unaccountably assimilated together, as often as men speak of Mr. Perceval's political adversaries, but they are not separated even where invectives are levelled at the Prince Regent, for the neglect of former friends or the abandonment of his early connections. I will not ask whether Lord Grenville is particularly included under such expressions of former friends; but as he is not separated from Lord Grey on such occasions, I should be glad to learn why or in what respect the Grenville part of Mr. Pitt's Administration is better than the Perceval part of it?

From 1791 till the end of the French Revolution War in 1801, Lord Grenville acted fully with Mr. Pitt in all those ill-fated measures which led to our present unparalleled difficulties; but it is scarcely sufficient to say that he took his share in those measures; for when Mr. Pitt qualified the prosecution of that ruinous war by declaring he should not be averse to treat of peace, if the Revolutionary Government assumed such a consolidated form that treaties might be relied on, this same Lord Grenville went beyond him in dissenting from even the supposition of possible reconciliation, unless we were allowed to replace the Bourbons on their throne: and when peace at last necessitated itself, were not those the persons who furnished the irritating epithet of Regicide Peace, as if such things had never happened in this country?

We are told, however, that Lord Grenville has fully renounced the system he so long supported with Mr. Pitt; but before the public act so credulously by present assertions, and so obliviously by past sacrifices of blood and treasure, it would be well to cast an eye to some portions of the latter appropriated by Lord Grenville to himself and family during his former political career, and which he was so far from relinquishing when he renounced his former politics, that, when he united with Lord Grey in 1806, the account will be found to have stood as follows:—

	Per Ann.		
The Marquis of Buckingham, Teller of the Exchequer (previously 24,000l.) then worth	£30,000	0	0
Mr. T. Grenville, C. J. of Forests South of Trent	3,500	0	0
First Lord of Admiralty	4,000	0	0
Lord Grenville, Auditor of Exchequer	4,000	0	0
First Lord of Treasury	7,000	0	0
Lord Temple, Paymaster-General	4,000	0	0
Lord Carysfort, his brother-in-law, Postmaster General	2,500	0	0
	£55,000	0	0

This, therefore, being the state of what regarded the Grenville family, when the Lords Grey and Grenville coalesced and united in the Administration of 1806, are we not permitted to wonder that, in six little years, we find them mentioned as if persons approaching the public under similar circumstances, and having similar claims to public confidence, and condoled with on long friendships forgotten, which, with one of the parties, never could have existed? In short, what possible parity can be found in the two men to justify the unaccountable assimilation of their names? Lord Grey trod the steril path of Opposition, whilst Lord Grenville reposed and fattened amidst roses, the thorns of which he left for the public. What then can thus identify the names of Grey and Grenville in the manner we have lately witnessed? That these enormous sums of public money taken to himself and family remind us of the resemblance between Lord Grenville and Mr. Perceval is certain; and this again leads me to ask, in what respect the Grenville part of Mr. Pitt's Administration is superior to the Perceval part of it?

It was and is still insisted upon by some, that Lord Grenville has wholly renounced all the opinions he entertained as colleague of Mr. Pitt; but let us also refer to the year 1806, when this Coalition came into office with Mr. Fox, the Man of the People, and from whom the people expected measures so very different from those pursued by Mr. Pitt, but found so little variation, that it has produced the present indifference of the public as to which of the two parties conduct the public affairs—an indifference so founded on experience, that the Coalition has never been able to dissipate it, by any cry either of Church or State, or political promises or assertions, to which the public were so sensibly alive before their Coalition and their Administration of 1806;—which, I again repeat, differed from the course pursued by Mr. Pitt only as whole measures were split into half measures, and which Lord Grenville, who is said to have foregone all his former opinions, continued to sanction during the Coalition Administration, besides reserving to himself and family the forementioned 55,000l. per annum. Where then is the parity of the Lords Grey and Grenville? or wherein is the Grenville part of Mr. Pitt's Administration superior to the Perceval?

Curius Dentatus.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE "NEW ÆRA."

[From the Stamford News.]

It has been publicly stated, and we believe with truth, that English history will not parallel such a commencement of a new reign, as this of our most virtuous and gracious Regent's. The long-tried and confidential friends of his Royal Highness,—who not only stood by him in his difficulties, but materially assisted in his extrication from them,—are bidding farewell to public life, just as their master attains power, under the influence of a disgust, the existence of which is apparent, but the cause of which we shall leave unexplored. The first grant made by the Regent's Government, in the way of reward, has been annulled by Parliament as mischievous; and the favourite, in lieu of what he thus lost, has been appointed to a place, which imposes a new burden on an already overburthened people, and which in its nature, is regarded as highly unconstitutional. The city of London came forward with an address on the new reign,—not of congratulation,—but of general and unqualified remonstrance,—we might even say of *censure*. Petitions against the measures of the Ministry crowd up from all quarters; while here and there a solitary testimony of applause comes creeping in from an inconsiderable borough or venal corporate body, only to create mortification by attracting attention to the miserable contrast which it presents to the almost universal sulkiness and displeasure. In one instance, an attempt to procure a complimentary address occasioned the people to rise in tumult; while riots and disorder throughout the country distinguish the commencement of the "*New Æra.*"

One other fit celebration was still wanting, we mean *State Prosecutions, for discussing the character of our gracious ruler.* His predecessors have generally been able to dispense with these, for some little time at least after mounting the throne. An *ex-officio* information for a libel on the sovereign, within the first three months of his reign, is a novelty reserved for the "*New Æra.*" The Prince and his subjects generally partake of a kind of political honey-moon when they first come together,—during which the former manifest only obedience and confidence, the latter grace and affection. But alas! the "*New Æra*" opens without a *honey-moon*:—Sir Vicary is immediately put to work to stifle the *expression* of discontent, and this is thought a very laudable substitute for abolishing its *cause.* How will all this tell in history! The Prince Regent, three months after the commencement of his rule, is engaged in a personal war with the public press!—While he and his advisers are alluded to in the strongest language in Parliament, his legal executioners are set on against the printers; and the sovereign ruler of the empire must owe the vindication of his fame,—not to the voice of his people,—but to the *law of libel!*—that law which punishes truth, and which was employed to maintain the respectability of Lord Castlereagh, and the advantages of flogging!

The Messrs. Hunt inform us, in the last Number of their paper (the *Examiner*), that *another** notice of Prosecution has been served upon them; and that the charge is founded on some strictures which they published, March 22d, on the conduct of the Prince Regent. These strictures, we recollect, were called forth in consequence of the *Regent's health being hissed and hooted at a public dinner*, at which were present, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Moira, the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquis of Downshire, and many other Noblemen, and persons of distinction. The health of the new Sovereign Ruler, being given at this meeting, it was *hissed down*, and when a person endeavoured to insinuate something in his vindication, *he* too was *hissed down.* A circumstance so exclusively belonging to the commencement of the "*New Æra,*" ought not to have been omitted when we were enumerating its peculiar distinctions. It is for commenting on this circumstance that Messrs. Hunts are prosecuted. The Prince, it would seem, although the people hiss, is resolved that the Press shall not echo the hiss. A very curious fact connected with this matter must not be omitted:—the Minister, under whose auspices this prosecution is resolved on, is one who bears, without denial, charges preferred against himself, of being both *author* and *publisher* of a gross attack on the Regent—a *libel* in the eye of the law most certainly—a *Book*, which, having disseminated to a certain extent, he was, *by some means*, induced to endeavour to suppress, and in the attempted suppression of which, many thousands (it is said of the public money) have been expended. This is the Minister, who now, since he is *employed* by his Royal Highness, advises his master to prosecute the *Examiner!* He has been told in Parliament, within these few days, over and over again, that he is *the author and publisher of a Libel on his Royal Highness*, and he has been silent under the charge, although preferred in the most stimulating manner; the conclusion, therefore, which we are authorised to draw, is evident. But the days when the Prince of Wales might be libelled with impunity are gone by. He has disowned his predilections—he has discarded his friends—and is *now*, therefore, well entitled to all the protection, and all the credit, that an *ex officio* information can confer.

* These Gentlemen have now been *four times* prosecuted by Sir Vicary. Three of these prosecutions have been unsuccessful; the event of the fourth remains to be proved.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH.

Thursday, May 8.

THE KING *v.* DANIEL ISAAC EATON.

The defendant, who had been found guilty of publishing the Third Part of Paine's *Age of Reason*, was this day brought up for judgment. He was sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment in Newgate, and, during the first month, to stand in the pillory for hour, in the Old Bailey.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Some of the late most *Fashionable Routes* have been marked by *Fashionable Purloinings*, which would subject the ordinary classes of the people to criminal convictions. The pitiful offence we allude to, is the taking away new and valuable *Shawls*, and leaving old flimsy ones in their stead; and this is even defended by some of the depredators of distinction, on the common adage, that "exchange is no robbery!"—At the Countess of C.'s assemblage, no less that 47 shawls were thus purloined, amongst which there were three new Indian ones, worth 50 guineas each, for which the proprietesses obtained only thread-bare things, not worth half so many shillings.

On Sunday night, about twelve o'clock, as a Gentleman was passing near Fitzroy-square, he was attacked by four or five men, who knocked him down, and to prevent him making any noise stuffed his mouth full, supposed to be with a silk handkerchief, while they robbed him of his watch, &c. He proved to be Mr. Warren, of Queen's-court, Queen-street.

On the night of Tuesday week a shocking outrage was committed near Ballypatrick. While the family of Patrick Keefe, a farmer, were asleep, their dwelling-house was set on fire, and the first communication of the dreadful event was by the falling in of the burning timber. Awakened by the cry of "Fire" from his wife, they both jumped up, and, in their agitation, lost the few moments that might have saved some of the family in an ineffectual search for the key. Missing this, Keefe recollected a window through which he might pass, and made for it, the burning timbers still falling in upon them; while he was making this effort, his wife ran to bring some of their children from an inner room, but out of which neither she nor they came alive! Of a family of nine persons, either in youth or middle life, within a few minutes, but one was left to relate this horrid story. Keefe was removed to the House of Industry, dreadfully burned. The Coroner's Inquest found, that eight persons came by their death by the house in which they were being maliciously set on fire by some person or persons unknown. The High Sheriff, on going to the House of Industry, found Keefe covered with ulcers, unattended; and no threat, nor intreaty, nothing of reward or punishment, was sufficient to procure from the surrounding savages a car to convey Keefe to Dublin. The Sheriff went for military assistance to the next station, and, on his way, meeting a return carriage from Nine Mile House, he made use of that to convey the sufferer.

DEATHS.

In Norfolk-Crescent, Bath, the Countess of Errol.

On the 25th ult. in Berkeley-square, the Right Hon. Viscountess Downe.

Monday se'nnight, in Piccadilly, aged 62, the Rev. S. Glasse, D.D. F.R.S. Rector of Wanstead, in Essex, prebendary of Wells and St. Paul's, and chaplain in ordinary to His Majesty.

Printed and published by JOHN HUNT, at the EXAMINER Office 15, Beaufort Buildings, Strand.—Price 8½d.